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THESIS

ORGANIZATION OF AN OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA BANK FOR THE PERUVIAN NAVY

bу

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September 1981

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T202792



SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION		BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
I. REPORT HUMBER	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitie)		S. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED
		Master's Thesis
Organization of an Oceanographic D	Data Bank for	September 1981
the Peruvian Navy		S. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(a)		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)
Hector Soldi Soldi		
PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRES	18	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
Naval Postgraduate School		
Monterey, California 93940		
II. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS		12. REPORT DATE
Naval Postgraduate School		September 1981
Monterey, Čalifornia 93940		13. NUMBER OF PAGES
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(II different	ent from Controlling Office)	18. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)
		Unclassified
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/ DOWNGRADING
6. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)		
7. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abetrect entered	d in Block 20, if different fo	Den Report)
IB. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
3. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary	and identify by block number)
oceanographic data, Peru Current, Peruvian Navy, oceanographic data		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary		
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Some of the applications of the data bank for the Navy, fisheries and other potential users are presented.



Organization of an Oceanographic Data Bank for the Peruvian Navy

by

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCEANOGRAPHY

from the

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL September 1981



ABSTRACT

Oceanographic data have been acquired along the coast of Peru for several decades. This information is important due to the effect of the cold northward Peru Current and Undercurrent and the intermittent warm "El Nino" countercurrent along the coast of Peru. These two phenomena greatly affect the fishing grounds along the coast as well as the characteristics of sound propagation in the sea due to changes in the vertical thermal structure of the water column. The creation of an oceanographic data bank for the Peruvian Navy is proposed for the archival from various sources of all available historical data for the waters near Peru. The data bank will be updated by a long term program of oceanographic data acquisition and exchange with local and foreign institutions. These data will be stored in an easily accessible format that can be useful for the Navy in creating operational products for the fleet and in monitoring and eventually predicting the ocean variability along the coast of Peru.

Some of the applications of the data bank for the Navy, fisheries and other potential users are presented.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisors, Dr. Roland W. Garwood, and Dr. Douglas McLain, for their assistance, and to the Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center at Monterey for supplying the data for this work.



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I. INTRODUCTION

Oceanographic data have been acquired along the coast of Peru for many decades. The special characteristics of the Peruvian coastal waters, especially the strong upwelling of cold, nutrient rich waters along the coast and the sudden and sometimes catastrophic "El Nino" phenomenon, have attracted the interest of ocean scientists for many years.

The economic, social and environmental impact of these two features on Peruvian society, and on the whole world, has motivated the organization of several large oceanographic expeditions to the coast of Peru. Due to the extent and the diversity of information acquired, the expeditions of international cooperative programs that have taken place during the last fifteen years are most important.

Unfortunately, much of the data that has been collected at high cost and effort for so many years is not centralized and is, therefore, not readily available to potential users in Peru or elsewhere. This is particularly true for physical oceanographic data, since much biological and chemical data have been assembled by the fisheries institutes.

The Peruvian Navy requires an easily accessible oceanographic data bank to be able to provide information to its ships and submarines about ocean conditions under which they operate, and to make ocean forecasts for naval operation areas. However, the task of assembling a data bank is difficult because many of the data are not available in a computer accessible form and because no single institution or agency in Peru has



archived all of the available historical data. In addition, the advantages of having an oceanographic data bank in Peru will benefit the fisheries, oceanographers, and scientific research in general, as well as the Navy.

In 1973, the Naval Hydrographic Office (Direction de Hidrografia y Navegacion de la Marina--DHNM) was assigned the task of implementing a "System of Oceanographic Information" (Sistema de Informacion Oceanographico, or SIO). This system was envisioned as consisting of an oceanographic data base that would provide services to several users. There would need to be a long term program of oceanographic data acquisition to update the data bank on a continuing basis. The system would also have a mechanism for exchanging data with other local and foreign institutions.

This thesis is a pilot study for the organization of a data bank for the Peruvian Navy that will eventually be part of the SIO. The scope of this work has been focused on the assembly of all available historical oceanographic data for areas in the vicinity of Peru. The historical data was mainly extracted from the Master Oceanographic Observation Data Set (MOODS) files of the Fleet Numerical Oceanographic Center (FNOC) in Monterey, California. After the data were selected, a simple system was designed to identify and store them in an orderly manner.

This thesis has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter is an introduction. The second is an historical review of the data acquisition programs that have taken place off the coast of Peru with a brief description of the most important. The third chapter reviews the phenomena of upwelling and "El Nino" and their impact on the guano and



fisheries industry in Peru, pointing out the importance of oceanographic data for study, monitoring and eventually predicting such features. It also presents justification for having a long range program of data acquisition to update the data bank. The fourth chapter introduces the MOODS system which was used in the selection and processing of the data, commenting on the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a similar system for the SIO. The fifth chapter presents some examples of practical applications of the data and discusses future possible uses of the bank. The last chapter presents the conclusions.



II. OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA FROM PERUVIAN WATERS

A. HISTORICAL REMARKS

Ever since 1811 when A. Von Humboldt described [Humboldt, 1826] what is now called the Humboldt or Peru current, many scientists and investigators have studied the coastal waters of Peru. It is difficult to identify when the peculiar characteristics of the cool waters of the Peruvian coast first drew the attention of the people living or traveling along this narrow strip of land. However, there are several Spanish documents dated as early as 1540, issued to the King of Spain, that report [Murphy, 1937] on the geographical and climatic characteristics of the newly conquered land. The cool ocean waters, the almost total lack of rain, and the abundance of marine life were the most striking features for the newcomers, who reported how they cooled their drinks by hanging flasks over the side of their ships.

One of the most notorious characteristics that concerned the Spanish, however, (because of its implications for navigation) was the origin and path of the sometimes strong northward current that affected the route of the ships sailing between Panama and Callao. An excerpt [Zarate, 1555], from the "Account of the Country" written by Treasurer-General Zarate to the Spanish King in 1543, indicates their preoccupation with this fact:

"This constant wind and current render the navigation exceedingly difficult from Panama to Peru for the greater part of the year; so that vessels are obliged always to tack to windward against wind and current."

Since the time of the Spanish conquest, many other travelers, scientists and navigators have referred to this phenomenon and tried to explain its



cause. Some of these observations were of commercial value because of the increasing trade and shipping between Peru and Europe via Panama. The Spanish and Portuguese sailors were already aware of the existence of these strong ocean currents. By 1519, they had discovered the advantage of sailing with favorable equatorial currents across the Atlantic to America and returning northward along the Florida Strait in the Gulf Stream as far as Cape Hatteras and then eastward to Spain and Portugal.

Aside from the commercial importance of the currents, there were many pioneering scientists who started to systematically acquire physical and biological information for scientific investigation. In the second half of the XVIII century the thermometer was already available and many navigators wrote of the importance of temperature observations for determination of current boundaries. In 1802, Von Humboldt attempted a global interpretation of the temperature measurements on the Peruvian coastal current [Humboldt, 1926]. Even though he incorrectly concluded that the low temperature was due to the Antarctic origin of the flow (actually the cool water comes from upwelled subsurface water, from Antarctic origin), he was still the first to attempt a comprehensive scientific study and interpretation of this current that still bears his name. After Humboldt, other investigators started to look for additional explanations for this oceanic phenomenon. Because of its importance in the circulation of the Pacific Ocean, many governments, private institutions and entrepeneurs became aware of the benefits of such investigation and began to organize and fund large oceanographic expeditions to acquire scientific data.



B. OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

In 1823, 1836 and 1837-8, three French expeditions acquired information along the coast of Peru to corroborate Humboldt's theory Dupery, 1829. In 1835, the well known expedition by the Beagle accompanied by Charles Darwin visited the coast of Peru and collected biological data Fitz Roy, 1839. The assembly of these new data was followed by new theories and interpretations: De Tessan (1844) hypothesized that the low water temperatures were due to upwelling. In 1874, Dinklage added another piece of evidence to the puzzle by pointing out the importance of the trade winds in the westerly set of the surface flow Gunther, 1936].

The first few years of the XIX century saw a profusion of new theories concerning the explanation of the Peru Current. Sverdrup, Schweigger, Vallaux and Schott were a few of the oceanographers who investigated the Peru Current and the already known "El Nino" countercurrent using more advanced instrumentation and techniques [Gunther, 1936].

During the decade of the 1930's, Sverdrup [Sverdrup, 1930] and Schweigger [Schweigger, 1931] published the first coastal and open ocean observations acquired with subsurface instruments. The data included temperature, salinity, pH and current velocity. These expeditions were so useful in learning about the characteristics of the area that others were encouraged to organize more elaborate data acquisition programs.

In 1928-29, the cruises of the <u>Carnegie</u> [Gunther, 1936] yielded valuable data across the Eastern South Pacific, not only along the coast, but from offshore waters to as far as 115 W and from the Equator to 40 S. Sverdrup's interpretation of the resultant temperature and salinity sections contributed to a better understanding of the limits of the system of oceanic currents and undercurrents along the coast of Peru.



In 1931 the British ship R.R.S. <u>William Scoresby</u> made an extensive survey from the Equator to 40 S acquiring meteorological data and observing temperature, salinity and phosphate concentration from the surface to 400 meters deep. The results of the Scoresby expedition are presented in an extensive report [Gunther, 1936]. After this expedition, and particularly during the 1960's, many well-organized oceanographic cruises have been conducted along the Peruvian coast. The following is a list of some of the most important modern expeditions. Many other short cruises by local and foreign institutions that have taken place in this part of the ocean are not included.

TABLE 1

Data Collection Programs 1950's-1970's

Year	Name	Program or Institution
1952	Shellback Expedition	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
1953	Yale South American Expedition	Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory
1960	STEP-1 Expedition	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
1967-8	(several)	EASTROPAC Program
1972	El Nino Watch Expedition	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
1976	JOINT II Experiment	CUEA Program

The last three expeditions deserve special commentary because they were large data acquisition and experimental programs that greatly added to the amount of information available from this part of the ocean. Many other cruises done by local institutions also exist and will be incorporated into the bank.



1. EASTROPAC Program

In 1960, at the seventh conference of Eastern Pacific Oceanic Conference (EPOC), the members of this organization discussed the sparse and infrequent data acquired in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. From these discussions, it was concluded that in order to understand and predict the variations of the circulation of this area, a more complete data base was necessary. An ambitious program of geological, geophysical, meteorological, as well as physical, chemical and biological oceanographic data acquisition was proposed. After several years of delay, the original program was somewhat reduced, fisheries surveys were added, and the revised program adopted its definitive name, Eastern Tropical Pacific Program (EASTROPAC). This was to be a cooperative effort towards understanding of the oceanography of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. The program included the participation of U.S., Mexican and Latin American institutions. The fieldwork was divided into seven 2-month cruises of the area between 20 N and 20 S and from the coast of North and South America to 119 W. Five of these seven periods of observations were conducted adjacent to the Peru coast during the months of: Feb-Mar 1967, Jun-Jul 1967, Aug-Sept 1967, Oct-Nov 1967 and Feb-Mar 1968. These particular cruises included the participation of four U.S. ships and one Peruvian ship. The information acquired was primarily physical and biological oceanographic data but included meteorological observations as well. All the observations during this program were processed and presented in eleven volumes as the "EASTROPAC ATLAS".

EASTROPAC was the first successful international program for the comprehensive acquisition of data in the Eastern Pacific. It was an



instructive experience for all of the participants in the organization of this kind of international cooperative program, and it would prove to be a valuable experience that was to be repeated many more times during the following decade.

2. El Nino Watch Expedition

In October 1974, based on previous studies done on the "E1 Nino" phenomenon, a prediction was made [Quinn, 1974] that a weak E1 Nino event would occur in early 1975. A group of scientists sponsored by the Office of Nava! Research and the National Science Foundation of the United States organized a multidisciplinary expedition to observe the conditions offshore of Ecuador and Peru. The expedition consisted of two cruises that surveyed the area from 2 N to 14 S, and 95 W to the coast. The first cruise took place from mid-February through March 1975 and the second from mid-April through May of the same year. The data acquired included CTD casts to a depth of 500 m, Niskin casts, XBTs, vertical zooplankton net tows, current measurements and meteorological variables. This information has been analyzed and presented in the "E1 Nino Watch Atlas" [Patzert, 1978].

3. CUEA Program

In 1966, a group of scientists and government officials in the U.S. proposed a ten year systematic program of cooperative international ocean exploration. This was the beginning of what was to become one of the most significant events in recent oceanographic history, the International Decade for Ocean Exploration (IDOE).

This ambitious program which took place during the decade of the 1970's was motivated by the future uses of the marine resources as well



as by scientific curiosity. It included the participation of many nations. By October 1978, 37 nations were involved in one or more of the various parts of IDOE programs. The original idea of IDOE was to promote an international, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach to improve our understanding of the oceans. One of the objectives that was included in the context of IDOE, was that of "Environmental Forecasting". Later on, an objective entitled "Living Resources" was included. Under the auspices of these two objectives, the Coastal Upwelling Ecosystem Analysis (CUEA) program was created. CUEA was a multidisciplinary research program designed to investigate coastal upwelling and its biological consequences. It was planned on the basis of a series of earlier investigations off Oregon and Northwest Africa in the mid-1960's and off the coast of Peru in 1966 and 1969 [Costlow and Barber, 1980]. CUEA included several field programs with ships from eight countries participating in the intensive periods of observation. Four small and two large field operations were conducted in the regions of upwelling. The large operations were named JOINT-I, conducted off North West Africa and JOINT-II, off Peru. JOINT-II was a U.S.A.-Peruvian effort of data acquisition and experimentation. It was divided into three periods of intense observations: March-May 1976 (MAM 76), July-November 1976 (JASON 76) and March-May (MAM 77). Seven U.S. and two Peruvian ships participated in the data acquisition. The U.S. provided aircraft, satellites and eight shore-based meteorological stations, and Peru provided logistic support for the aircraft and meteorological stations, as well as a coordination center at the Instituto del Mar del Peru, in Lima.



CUEA has produced one of the most comprehensive sets of data ever collected off the coast of Peru. The results of the field, laboratory and theoretical studies will be a valuable source of data for future investigations in this area.



III. THE IMPORTANCE OF AN OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA BANK IN PERU

A. THE FISHERIES

It is a well known fact that the surface water close to Peru is much colder than what is expected at these latitudes. The temperature was so low that Humboldt thought that the northern current originated in Antarctica. However, in 1844 De Tessan, correctly attributed the low temperature to upwelling of subsurface water (from 100 to 300 m) along the coast. Upwelling is a process whereby subsurface water rises toward the surface. Coastal upwelling results when prevailing winds produce offshore flow in the surface layer near a coastal boundary [0'Brien, 1978].

Areas of coastal upwelling cover only 1% of the oceans, but they contain more than half the world commercial fish stocks. Coastal upwelling occurs along virtually all coasts. It is very intense in several places such as the coasts of California-Oregon, Northwest and Southwest Africa, Arabia, and western South America. In some of these regions, the phenomenon is seasonal (especially in mid-latitudes), whereas off Peru, it occurs throughout most of the year.

Upwelling is of particular importance because it can raise great quantities of phosphates, nitrates, silicates, and other nutrients from subsurface waters. The presence of these nutrients in the photic zone greatly enhances photosynthesis and as a result, algae and phytoplankton flourish. Along the coast of Peru, this great productivity in plant life provides the basis for a prodigious food chain which supports a large fish population, including the largest population of anchovies and



ocean birds found anywhere. As a result, the commercial fishery harvest is enormous. In 1970, Peru accounted for more than one fifth of the total world fish protein production $\sqrt[6]{6}$ Brien et al, 1981.

However, this productivity at the top of the food chain is not very stable. In the northern part of Peru, a tongue of Equatorial Countercurrent water annually intrudes southward along the coast from the Gulf of Guayaquil. It is of 6 to 7 C warmer and much less saline than the surface water it displaces. This event usually occurs during the Christmas season and is, therefore, known as "El Nino", which means "The Child", the popular name given to the Child Christ, symbol of the Christmas season. "El Nino" occurs every year with its warm waters penetrating to 6° or 7°S. In some years, this countercurrent is stronger than normal and it may reach as far as 12°S or more, causing a catastrophic destruction of plankton and fish life. In "El Nino" years, the large anchovy population which is adapted to the cold upwelled water, either scatters in search of cooler water or it migrates offshore. Many fish die prematurely, dramatically reducing the stock. Large number of seabirds that mainly feed on these anchovies die of starvation, and the guano (seabird fecal deposits used as fertilizer) yield is reduced with a deleterious effect on agriculture. The effects of "El Nino" are evident in the atmosphere as well. In severe "El Nino" years, the northern coastal areas experience torrential rains causing flooding in the farmlands along the river valleys.

The social and economic impact of this event in Peru is well documented [Murphy, 1954; Caviedes, 1975; Paulik, 1981]. In 1960, the fishmeal industry alone represented 35% of total national foreign



earnings [Paulik, 1981]. In 1972, a combination of very intense fishing and a long and intense "El Nino" caused the collapse of the fishing industry. The economically important guano mining industry also felt the effect of this phenomenon in the late 1930's. The economic effects are felt worldwide in the price and supply of fertilizers and fishmeal. In 1973, a sharp rise in the price of chicken in the U.S. was due to the unavailability of fishmeal used as chickenfeed [O'Brien, 1978]. Prices of soybean meal, which competes with fishmeal as animal feed, increased due to reduced supplies of fishmeal on the world market.

The "El Nino" phenomenon is an important example of a complex ocean/atmosphere interaction whose causes are still not fully understood.

Much effort has recently been made to understand the interaction between atmospheric and ocean conditions that precede the initiation of an "El Nino", yet more data are needed to improve any predictive capabilities for the onset of the event. The far reaching effects of "El Nino" on the Peruvian economy and on the world supply of fertilizers and fishmeal has encouraged the scientific community to try to understand the behavior of this phenomenon by the acquisition of more data. In recent years, there have been numerous studies of this event that used these data. It is now important to update and organize these data to better document "El Nino" and its variability. It is also important to share these data between the countries of the region that are affected by the "El Nino" (Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Colombia) under programs such as ERFEN (Regional Study of the "El Nino" Phenomenon).



B. THE NAVY

The onset of "El Nino" with rapidly changing conditions of the water masses along the coast also changes the acoustical characteristics of the ocean in this area. The Navy is interested in this variability because of its effects on underwater sound propagation for antisubmarine warfare (ASW).

Because of the historical economic impact of "El Nino" and its consequences for Naval operations, it is necessary to develop an oceanographic data bank to archive all available historical ocean data for Peruvian waters and also to update the data bank with new information on a continuing basis to monitor and eventually to predict ocean conditions.

Several years ago, the Peruvian Navy began a study of the physical characteristics of the ocean waters along the coast to provide its ships and submarines with information on the environment in which they operate. The Peruvian Naval Hydrographic Office (DHNM) was assigned the responsibility of collecting data available from local sources. Because of the need for rapid access to the data and for rapid preparation of summaries in different forms, the data were to be in computer accessible form. The DHNM searched for physical oceanographic data in government offices and fisheries institutions but found very little in computer accessible form, and ultimately most of the information acquired came from the U.S. National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC).

This lack of computer accessible oceanographic information from local sources lead to the concept of a data bank for the Navy and other users in which all the data acquired along the coast of Peru for many years by local and foreign sources could be organized in such a way so



as to be of immediate use. The potential benefits from the organization of such a bank include the incentive it will provide for students of marine sciences and other related investigations. Its creation should encourage the Peruvian Navy to implement a strong program of oceanographic data acquisition with Navy ships and other platforms. It should also encourage other sources, local and foreign that acquire oceanographic data to provide it to the bank on an exchange basis. Finally, it will create a mechanism to archive the information gathered by foreign ships that come to Peru on future oceanographic expeditions. On the basis of these considerations, the Peruvian Navy decided to commission the organization of an oceanographic data bank.

C. THE CREATION OF THE BANK

On March 11th 1977, the Government of Peru issued the Decree Law D.S. #033-77-MA by which the responsibility for the creation and organization of the Oceanographic Information System or Sistema de Informacion Oceanografico (SIO), was assigned to the Hydrographic Office of the Navy.

The first step in the organization of such a system is the collection and inventory of all available historical information. As is evident, a large amount of data has been acquired along the coast of Peru for many years. Finding and identifying this data today is difficult because of the diversity of the sources and data formats.

Although a significant effort has been made by various institutions over the years in the acquisition of data, much of this valuable information remains scattered in the archives of those institutions. In recent years, however, efforts have been made to try to centralize and standardize the acquisition of data from all over the world. Two such central



facilities are (NODC) and World Data Centers A and B in Washington D.C. and Moscow, respectively.

The organization of the historical data is only the initial step in the creation of the oceanographic data bank which will support the SIO. Next, there needs to be careful planning for the establishment of procedures to acquire additional data to update the data bank, and for the implementation of such procedures. There are many considerations in planning the future acquisition of data: special projects or areas of study, user requirements, existence of historical data, availability of platforms for data acquisition, Navy priorities, etc.

The creation of the SIO will require that the DHNM organize a network of data-acquisition platforms that can provide the data to update the bank on a continuing basis. This can be done in part by use of Navy ships as well as fishing and commercial ships of opportunity. The use of ships of opportunity has already enabled the monitoring of atmospheric conditions along the coast of Peru, and they could also be used for acquiring oceanographic data. The implementation of such a monitoring system is not simple but can be accomplished by sharing both the responsibilities and the benefits of the program with others. For example, FNOC already has a global ship of opportunity program in existence. Data acquired by these ships provide a large scale monitoring and temperature conditions in the Pacific Ocean and a few of the ships make expendable bathythermograph observations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

The implementation of the SIO will be divided into three main stages:

- 1) the acquisition and organization of the existing historical data;
- 2) the establishment of procedures for monitoring, assembling and exchanging of new data to update the data base on a continuing basis; and



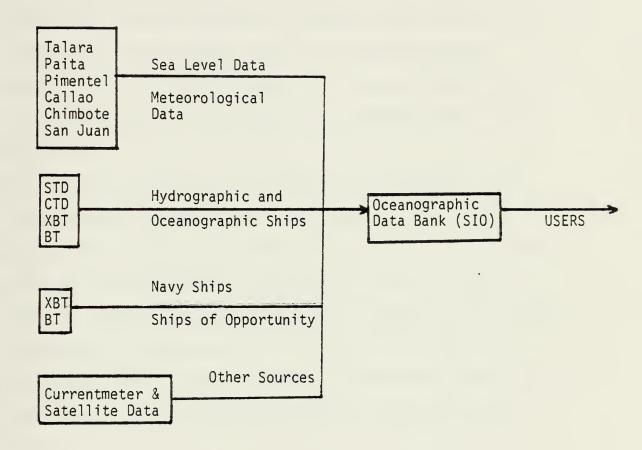
3) the implementation of computer analysis programs and application products to provide services for users.

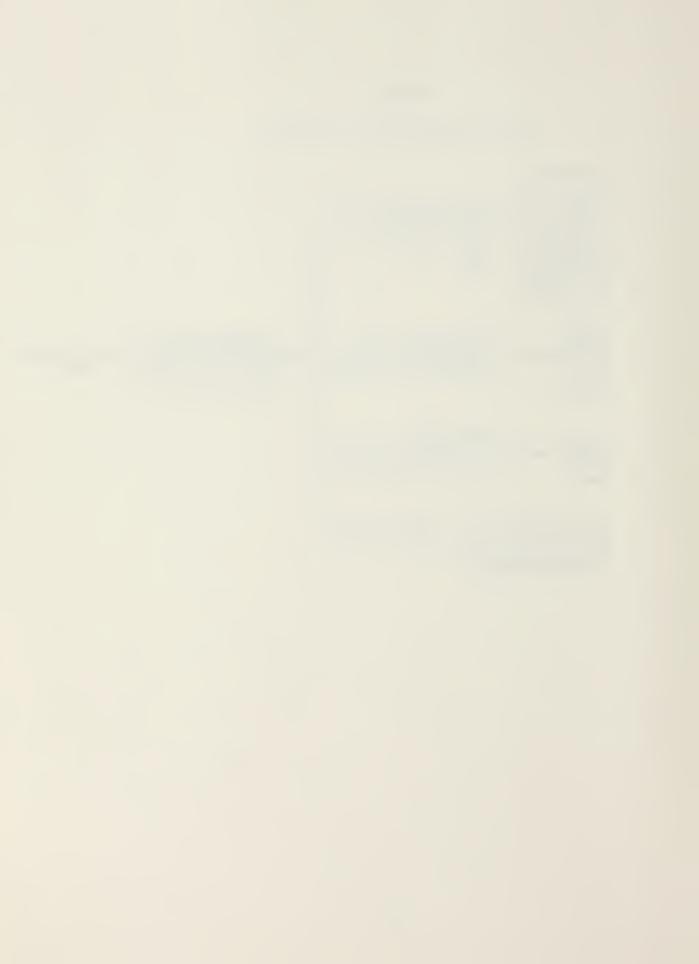
The scope of this thesis is devoted to the first of these steps, that is, the compilation from numerous sources of all available historical data from the coastal waters of Peru. More specifically, the focus is on the design and implementation of an archiving system of primarily physical oceanographic data. One purpose of this thesis is to provide some ideas and examples of possible applications of the available historical data. A final purpose of this thesis is to conduct a pilot study and test of some of the systems already in existence for the management of oceanographic data. The programs developed for the processing of the data will be transferred to the computer facilities of the Peruvian Navy where they will be tested to start the implementation of the SIO. Next, all available physical data will be acquired and introduced to the system to update the bank. Table 2 shows how the flow of information will update the bank in the future.

One of the main accomplishments of this thesis is that it has provided experience in working with programs and data sets similar to those that will be used for the SIO. This experience will be very valuable in the design and implementation of the oceanographic data bank for the Peruvian Navy.



TABLE 2
Flow of Information Into the Bank





IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE BANK

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA FORMATS

The way in which data are recorded is a central issue in the design of any computerized data management system. The computer does not recognize what the data represent; rather, it is the programmer who formats the data for input to the computer as an ordered pattern of binary digits or bits.

There are several different ways of formating oceanographic data.

Some formats are more efficient than others depending on the type of data and the applications for which the data are to be used. It is also important that the available computer efficiently supports the format.

During the last fifteen years, the improvement of computers and of sophisticated techniques for archiving and retrieving data from large data bases has increased the efficiency of managing oceanographic data. Recently developed systems save considerable amount of memory space and computer time.

As an example of improving data storage techniques, in 1966 the North Atlantic ocean station file of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) was stored on sixty-four reels of tape. By the simple technique of grouping single card images into blocks of ten card images per tape record, the physical size of the file was reduced from sixty-four to twenty-one reels of tape [Yergen, 1970]. This saved considerable space and reduced the complexity of making computer summaries of the data. Later, in the same year, NAVOCEANO restructured the same file



into an experimental format called "rapid access" format Yergen, 1967. This format further reduced the twenty-one reels to three reels of magnetic tape and made the data very accessible.

The new, more efficient scheme used a binary number format rather than the former binary coded decimal (BCD) character format. In this way, the size of the file was reduced and conversions between BCD and binary numbers eliminated. Elimination of the BCD-binary conversion speeds the processing since binary is the natural arithmetic base system of most computers. Reducing the physical size of the file not only saves space and simplifies computer runs but also reduces the actual time needed to transport the tape past the computer's tape-read heads.

There are several disadvantages of binary data, however. Most important is that data are commonly exchanged between computers in character form and many users are unfamiliar with binary data. Also many common compilers (such as IBM FORTRAN) do not contain features to easily handle binary data. Thus, the user is forced to develop special subroutines to pack and unpack the data. Fortunately efficient, FORTRAN callable, machine language subroutines are available for many computers, based on work at the National Center for Atmospheric Research Jenne, 1979 and Scripps Institution of Oceanography Hilton, 1974. These are the routines SBIT/SBITS and GBIT/GBITS which pack and unpack bits or strings of bits.

An example of the volume and computer time saved on a Control Data Computer (CDC) by using binary packed rather than BCD data is given below Jenne, 1974]. For a number in the range 0 to 4095 in magnitude (such as ocean temperatures in the range -1.8°C to 35.0°C, stored as



hundredths of a degree Celsius, -180 to 3500 units, and biased by $+2.0^{\circ}$ C or 200 units to be in the range 20 to 3700 units) the following number of bits are required for storage:

Volume comparison:

Storage Method	Volume Per Number
Binary Packed	12 Bits
BCD (6 Bit Character)	24 Bits
BCD (8 Bit Character)	32 Bits

Also, the amount of time required to convert the number for use in calculations is as follows:

Type of Data	Tim	e to Unpack It
Binary (12 Bit Number Using Machine Language)	3	microseconds
Binary (12 Bit Number Using Fortran Subroutine)	20	microseconds
BCD Characters Using Fortran Subroutine	120	microseconds
As can be seen, considerable	time and space is saved	by using binary
packed data when working with	large volumes of data.	In the above ex-
amples, there is about a thre	e-to-one compaction and	about a forty-to-
one saving in time.		

Ever since the computer became an indispensable tool for storing and processing large amounts of data, many storage devices have been used for archiving and exchanging information between data centers.

Punched cards, punched paper tapes, magnetic tapes, and disks have all been used for this purpose. Today, because of its versatility and low



cost, magnetic tape is a common storage device and its standardization by all major computer manufacturers has simplified the exchange of data on tape between users. However, even though magentic tape has become a standard medium, many different formats are used to store oceanographic data. The increasing diversity of ways of acquiring oceanographic data, together with the variety of applications for the data has encouraged the design of many different formats each suited to the user's particular needs and computer facilities. Based on the earlier work of Yergen, Jenne, and others, the Master Oceanographic Observation Data Set (MOODS) was developed by Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center (FNOC) as an attempt to merge all available ocean profile data globally for rapid access by computers for naval purposes.

B. HISTORICAL DATA FORMAT (MOODS)

The main source of historical data for the coastal waters off Peru was extracted from the MOODS archives of FNDC. During the last few years, efforts have been made at FNOC to acquire all available oceanographic profile data from files of the U.S. National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) and other sources in order to make the existing oceanographic data easily accessible to operational users. The data conversions and programs to handle the MOODS data were written in Fortran IV by Compass Systems, Inc. and implemented on a CDC 6500 computer at FNOC.

The MOODS system was designed to meet five objectives: (1) simplification of computer software to handle a single format of ocean profile data rather than the multiple formats used previously, (2) compaction of the data files from more than 50 reels of tape to just a few reels (or ultimately, a single disk pack), (3) rapid access by computer, (4) ease



of data exchange between computers of different manufacturers. The data are stored as binary integers, biased to be positive integers to eliminate problems of handling negative binary numbers. For further compaction of the data, values in each profile are stored as differences rather than actual values.

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE MOODS FORMAT

The MOODS files are sorted by time and position (both to the accuracy of minutes), source and ship files in such a way that records can be sorted and extracted in any combination of time, one degree areas, ship and source files. The information packed into a MOODS record, corresponding to one complete ocean profile, is divided into several fields. Each field contains information about the observation in the following sequence:

1. Day-Time Group

This is an eight digit integer that contains the year, month, day and hour of the observation (i.e., 65032110 corresponds to 1000 hours Greenwich time on the 21st of March 1965).

2. Position

Latitude and longitude are stored to the nearest minute. The hemisphere is stored as 2 bits with positive values for north and east hemispheres.

3. Cruise Number and Ship Code

The cruise number usually corresponds to the NODC cruise number. If the data were not obtained from NODC, the number used is the one coded by the source. Because the criteria used by different data acquisition organizations to select their cruise numbers are not the same,



FNOC has developed a cross-reference table to identify the ship codes and names of ships.

4. Number of Levels

This number corresponds to the discrete number of recordings taken during the original observation.

5. Number of Standard Levels

This is the number of levels at which values can be interpolated. A convenient feature of the MOODS subroutines is conversion of the data to standard levels from the original values. The standard depths to which values are interpolated can be selected by the user. This feature is especially useful in mapping the distribution of data at a selected depth, as will be seen in the last chapter.

6. Report Number

All the observations, whether BTs or hydrocasts, are numbered consecutively, and sorted by month, year, and by latitude and longitude (rounded to whole degrees). The report number is generated by a counter that keeps track of the number of observations extracted from the FNOC MOODS files. This number will eventually be altered when installed in the DHNM computer facilities in Peru because additional historical data will be added from other local sources such as the Peruvian Navy and fisheries.

7. Profile Data

The MOODS subroutines contain an array of dimension 7, corresponding to the seven possible variables that can be selected for an observation, coded as follows:



Code	0	Depth
Code	1	Temperature (in degrees Celcius)
Code	2	Salinity (in parts per thousand)
Code	3	Sigma-T
Code	4	Pressure
Code	5	Sound Speed (in meters per second)
Code	6	Oxygen (in millimeters per liter)

More than seven variables may be included in the future (such as chlorophyll), as needed. Any of these parameters or combinations of them can be selected and displayed in a table format, provided the observation contains such information. This feature also enables the user to rapidly select those profiles having the desired parameters.

8. Source Code

The source code identifies the source of the observation and allows the system to sort the data set by source and permits identification of individual observations. FNOC has a table of codes identifying the various sources.

D. EXTRACT FILE FOR THE PERUVIAN AREA

Extraction of all available data from the area off the coast of Peru was done by FNOC from their monthly-sorted MOODS data tapes. The limits of the area selected was from the Equator to 20°S and from 86°W to the coast. This area covers the entire length of the Peruvian coast, approximately 200 miles offshore as can be seen from Figure 1. The extracted information contains NODC mechanical and expendable bathythermographic (BT and XBT) data and hydrocast data, radio messages of BT and XBT data, Scripps Institution of Oceanography file of mechanical BT data read at 100 ft intervals, BT data digitized by Scripps



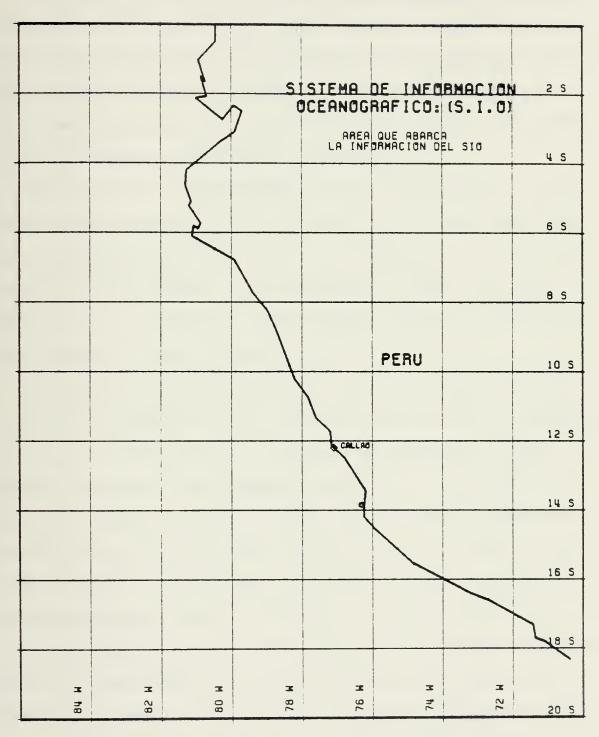
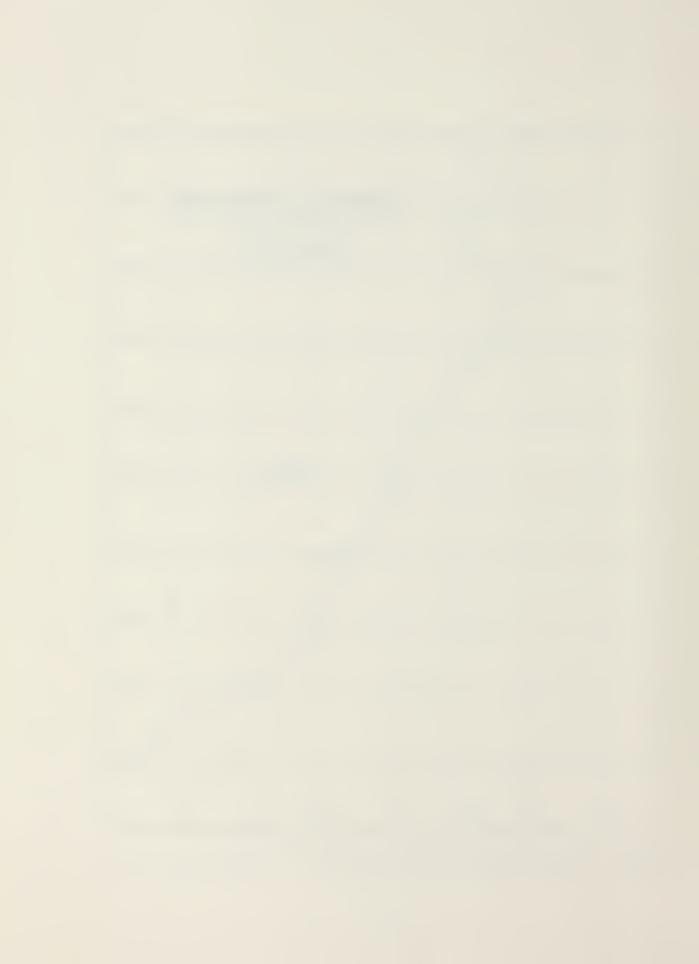


FIGURE 1: Areas Selected for Data Extraction From MOODS Monthly Tapes



Institution and Compass Systems, Inc., and British XBT and mechanical BT data.

The extracted MOODS data file was read and inventoried at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) using the IBM 370 Model 3033 computer. To be able to use the subroutines from the FNOC Control Data Corporation computer to unpack the data in the MOODS format on the NPS computer, the subroutine had to be modified because the Fortran languages used by the CDC and IBM computers are not directly compatible.

This conversion of the FNOC MOODS data read subroutines for use on the NPS computer and will allow the future NPS users to use MOODS format data independent of FNOC's facilities. Now that these subroutines are adapted to the NPS system, it may be worthwhile to install the global MOODS data base at the NPS W.R. Church Computer Center and incorporate the subroutines as part of the public library.

Additionally, since the Peruvian Navy has an IBM computer which will be used for the support of the SIO, MOODS files will be easily accessible using the converted routines by the DHNM for climatological purposes. In addition, new data will be processed by DHNM and will include CTD data acquired on research vessels, XBT data acquired on ships of opportunity operating along the coast of Peru, and sea level data for the six tide gauges installed along the coast. The programs that will process the current oceanographic data for the DHNM will not use the MOODS format but rather a simpler character format because of the elaborate programming required to update MOODS files and the relatively small amount of new data to be processed. The new data will be exchanged with NODC and FNOC and updated MOODS climatological tapes provided to DHNM by FNOC.



E. SELECTION OF THE DATA

Once the MOODS read subroutines were converted to the IBM computer and tested, the data were separated into two groups: bathythermographic (mechanical BT, XBT, or AXBT) and hydrocast data. The data were then listed in a convenient format (examples are shown in Appendix A). In the following chapter, it will be seen that the separation of data into hydrocast stations and BTs was done to form independent sets of data for specific applications. For example, sound speed profile analysis requires salinity information and thus can only use hydrocast data.



V. APPLICATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

The two primary functions of the SIO are: archival of data concerning the ocean area off the coast of Peru and distribution of this information to the users. The applications of the data are the most important aspect in the consideration of the design and organization of the data bank. The effectiveness of any information system depends more on how well it satisfies the users' needs than on the level of sophistication of the system.

It is of vital importance to clearly define the problems to be solved by the users to best define the organization of the information system. Based upon the priorities and objectives of the system, the design and organization of the data bank can be suitably tailored. Many of the potential users of the SIO and their specific needs have already been identified. These are the Navy, the fisheries, other agencies and scientific researchers. In addition, there may be other potential users having specific requirements for the use of this system in Peru. Many of these are difficult to identify at this time, and their presence will be obvious only after the system is created. It is for these cases that the flexibility of the system becomes important so that it can best satisfy the demands of all users with a minimum of data processing.

Access to the SIO probably will initially be limited to a number of users having very different specific needs. However, it is very likely that additional users having other requirements may access the system



later on. Such new requests will encourage the growth and diversification of the system as well as provide new ideas for the acquisition and utilization of other oceanographic variables and the implementation of new applications.

This thesis primarily dealt with physical oceanographic data because very little of these data exist in the archives of any Peruvian institution in comparison to the large amount of chemical and biological information collected by the Instituto del Mar del Peru, the Ministry of Fisheries and other sources. Many of these biological and chemical data will eventually also become part of the data bank of the SIO.

In the following sections some of the more immediate applications and products that can be derived from the historical data collected for the data bank are presented, and other ideas of probable future use of these data are discussed.

B. INVENTORY OF THE DATA

The first task in organizing the bank is conducting an inventory of the data.

The criterion used in selecting the variable under which the data are filed is very important, and it will also depend on the specific needs of the user. The system has to be flexible enough so that different sorting parameters can be used to select the data to be retrieved and presented to the user. For purposes of illustration, two cases of retrieving the data by different parameters will be shown. These are inventories of the observations by years and by months.

The selection of year as a parameter to retrieve and display the information is useful, and it is a familiar way of displaying data



sequentially. Data presented this way is particularly useful when studying phenomena of very low frequency of occurrence; such as, "El Nino".

As stated earlier, the information collected includes bathythermographic (BT) and hydrocast observations. In order to provide a graphical representation of the geographical distribution of these two kinds of observations, three different maps were made: BT data, hydrocast data, and both types of data (Figures 2, 3 and 4). To complement the maps of the distribution of the data, a listing with the basic information of the individual observations is provided in Appendix B. The date, source and time of each observation can be obtained from this listing.

A second way in which the information can be retrieved and presented is by month. This is useful in the investigation of phenomena having regular seasonal trends. One example of the application of monthly data is the selection of representative sound speed profiles by seasons (quarterly) for certain geographic areas. This application will be discussed in more detail in Chapter IV. The monthly observations are displayed in three maps similar to that for the yearly data (Figures 5, 6 and 7). Listings for this example are also given in Appendix B.

These were just two of the many possible ways in which data can be selected and displayed. Other applications that can be derived from these data could be tables of the distribution of the data by source, year or other parameter. There can be multiple ways of selecting and displaying the data, and the user ultimately will decide the way the data are presented and sorted for specific applications.



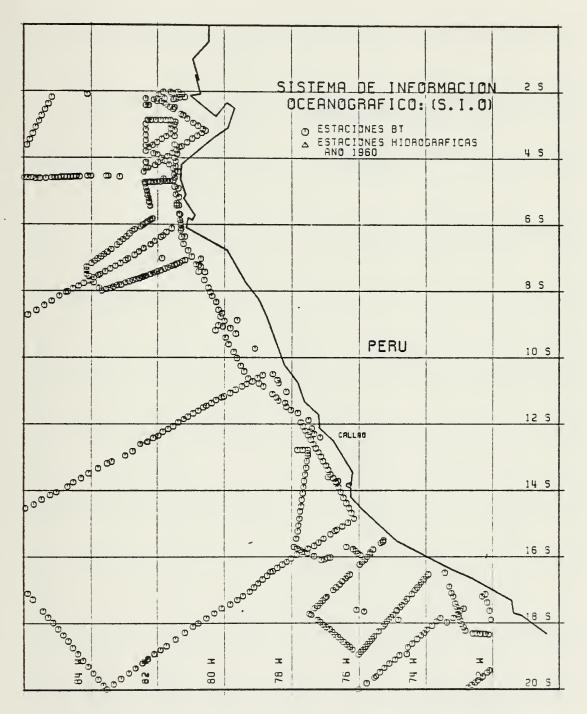
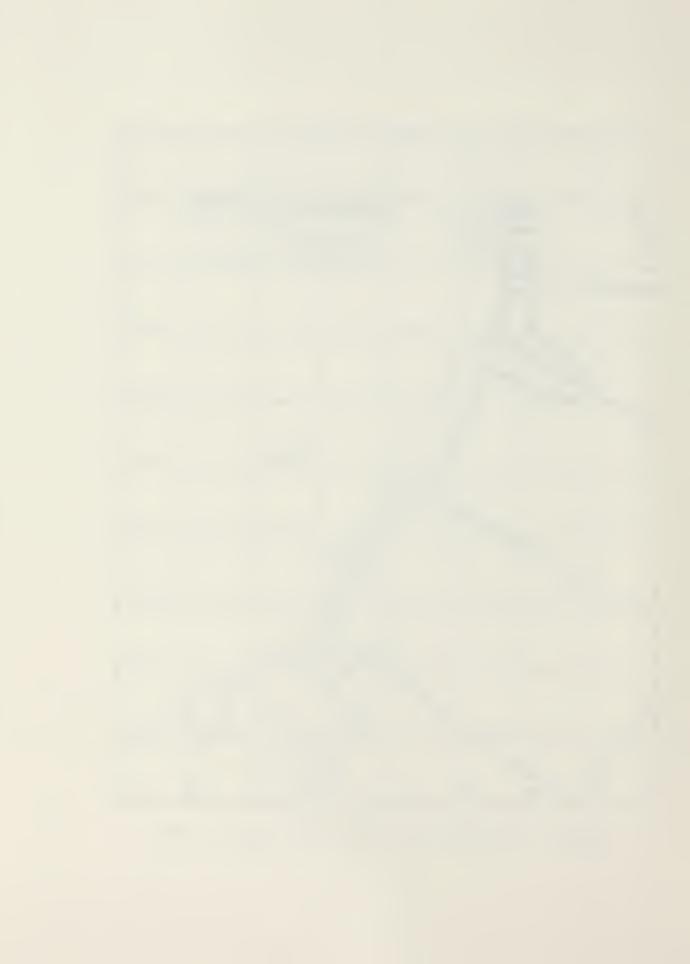


FIGURE 2: Distribution of BT Historical Data for 1960



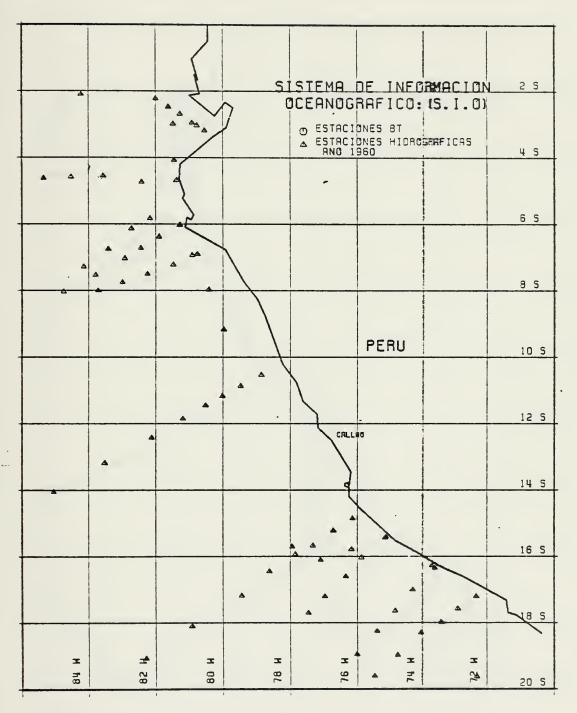
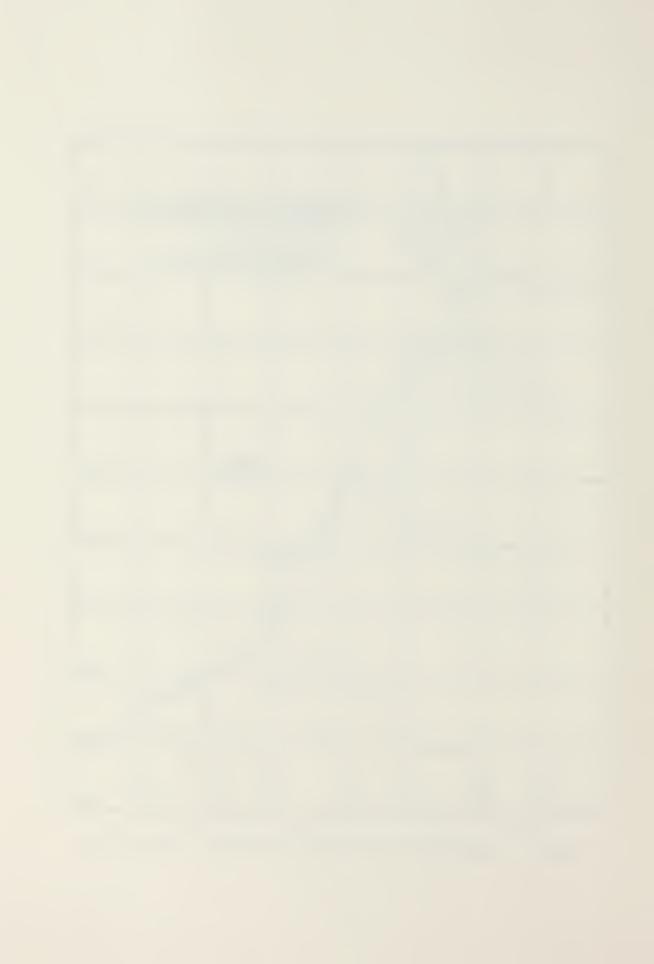


FIGURE 3: Distribution of Hydrocast Historical Data for 1960



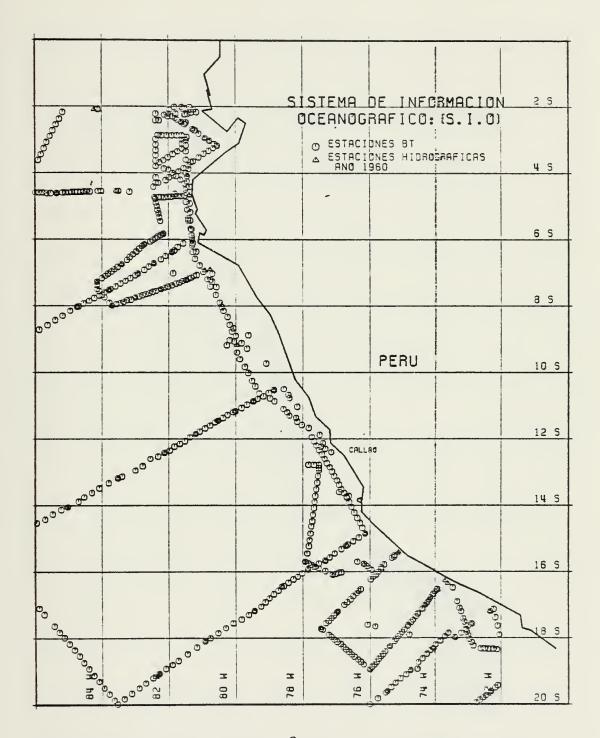


FIGURE 4: Distribution of Hydrocast and BT Data for 1960



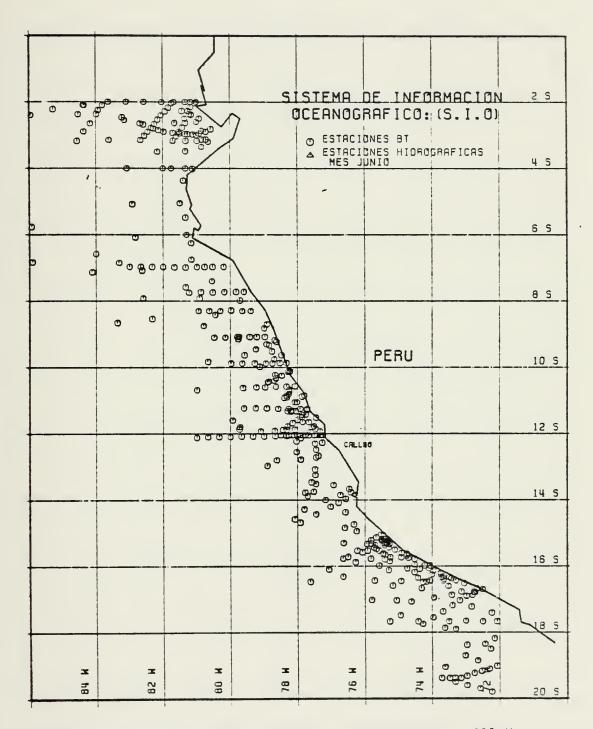


FIGURE 5: BT Historical Data for the Month of June, All Years



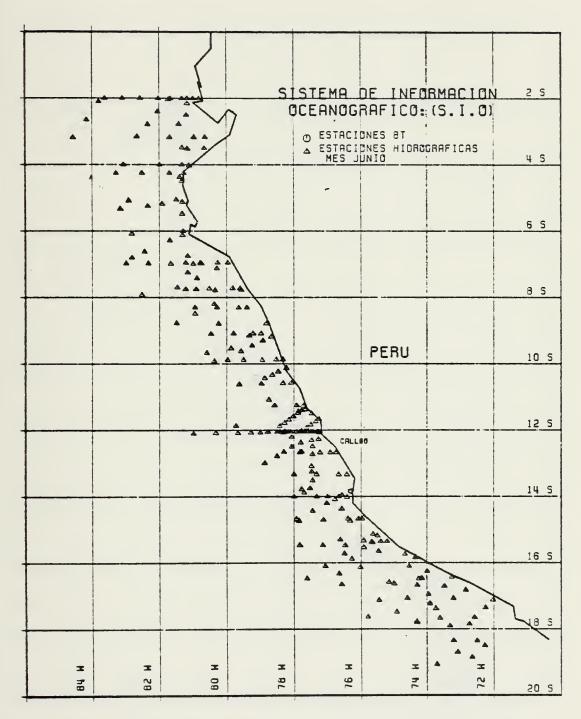
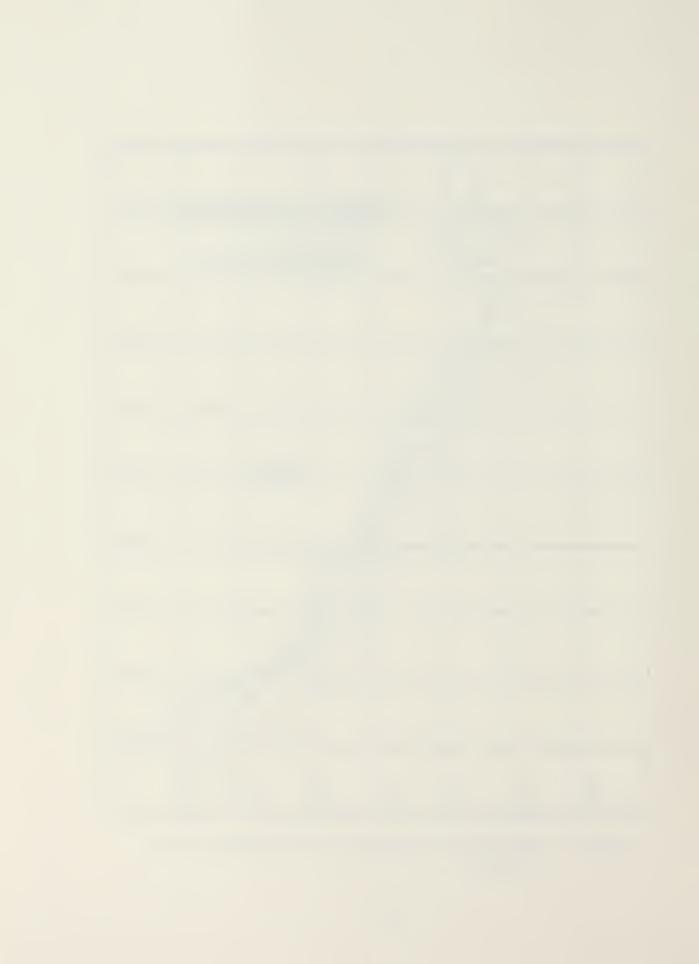


FIGURE 6: Hydrocast Historical Data for the Month of June, All Years



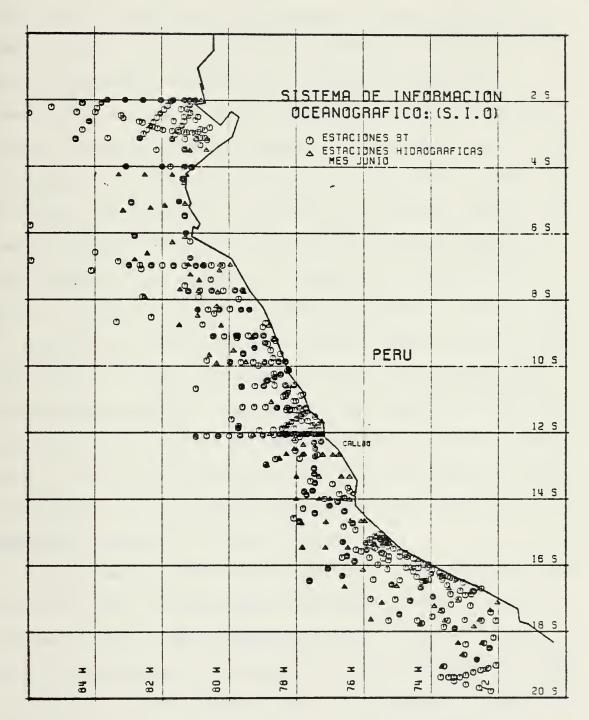
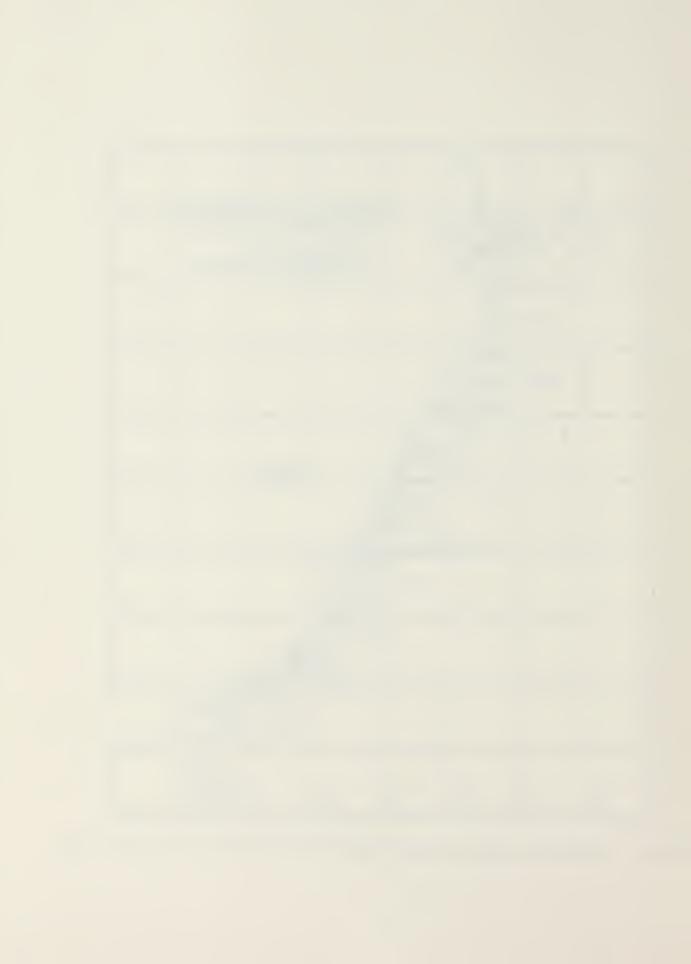


FIGURE 7: Hydrocast and Historical BT Data for the Month of June, All Years



C. NAVAL APPLICATIONS

Two of the purposes of the organization of the SIO are to provide the Peruvian Navy the capability of obtaining oceanographic data for analysis and to provide operational products for naval applications. Some of the practical applications derived from the processing of historical oceanographic information for the Navy have been tested for several years, and some of these have been implemented as operational products in many navies. Some examples of these products are those used in navigation aids, environmental forecasts, and acoustic analyses. In this section, one example of an application for the Navy using the SIO that can readily provide a useful operational product will be given. The discussion of this example is the subject of another NPS thesis [Garcia, 1981] that used data selected directly from this bank.

The acoustical characteristics of the water masses in a naval operation area are of vital importance when planning and executing submarine and ASW operations. Although the fleet normally acquires BT's during operations to analyze the thermal structure of the ocean, information is needed prior to the operation for planning purposes. Historical data can be used to analyze the ocean conditions statistically by geographical quadrangles and time of the year.

To determine the acoustic characteristics of the water masses along the coast of Peru, the geographical area between 0° and 20°S and 70° to 86°W was divided into 83° one-degree quadrangles (Figure 8). The details of the selection of the areas as well as the analysis of the data for each area is given in Garcia (1981). As an example, an analysis of one of the sections will be summarized here. To study the acoustical



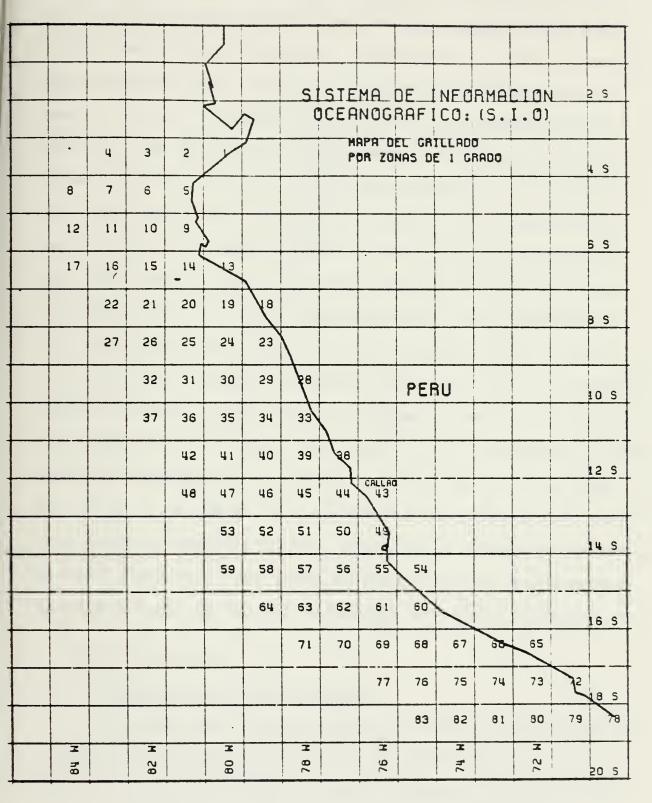


FIGURE 8: Map with Grid of One Degree Quadrangles



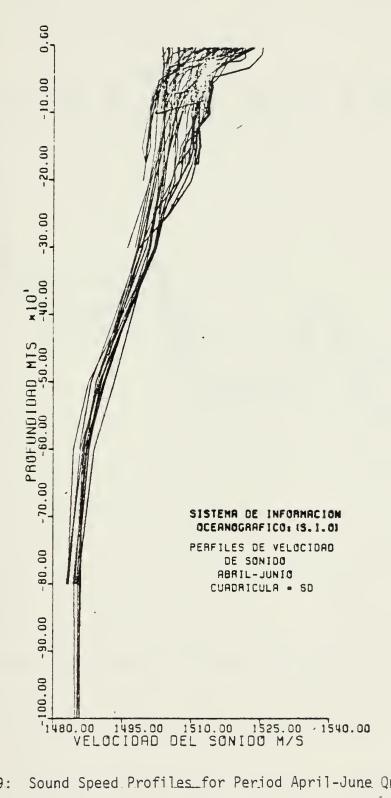
effects of a water mass in each of the areas, the available historical data were used to obtain monthly graphs of sound speed profiles. These profiles were grouped by quarters: Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep and Oct-Dec. They were then plotted separately for each one-degree quadrangle and quarter. (Figure 9 represents all the profiles from quadrangle #60 for Apr-Jun). From each of the quarterly groups of profiles, one or more curves were selected as the ones that best represented the characteristic of the water mass for that area and quarter. This selected profile was then input to an acoustical model to obtain curves of transmission loss versus range. Figure 10 shows the transmission loss curves for 6 frequencies (50, 100, 200, 300, 500 and 800 hertz) using the representative sound speed profile for April-June for quadrangle #60 of Figure 9. In this particular example, the acoustic model used is the Fast Asymptotic Coherent Transmission Model (FACT), implemented at the W. R. Church Computer Center at the NPS. The transmission loss curves from the FACT model provides detection ranges for specific sonar characteristics of a given ship. This is strategically vital information when planning naval operations involving submarines and ASW. Other kinds of information that can be readily obtained and also useful for ASW applications include surface temperature charts and charts of the average depth of the thermocline.

D. OTHER APPLICATIONS

1. Topography of Isothermal Surfaces

In recent years, many new theories and models have been developed to predict and simulate the onset of "El Nino" [Hurlburt et al., 1976; Wyrtki, 1975; Bjerknes, 1961]. The data acquired by the CUEA experiments





Sound Speed Profiles for Period April-June Quadrangle #60 -- FIGURE 9:



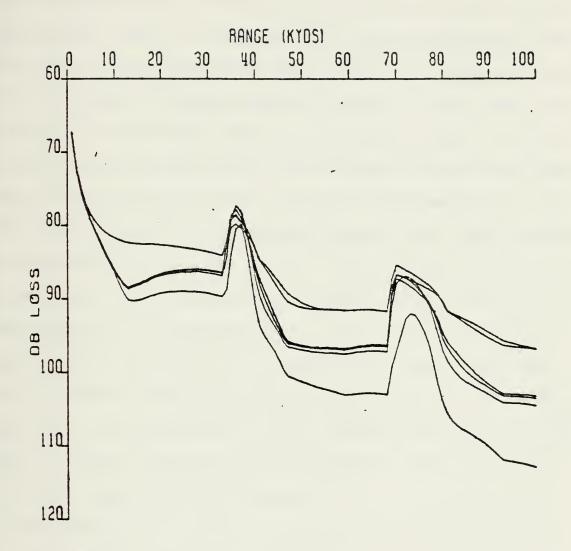
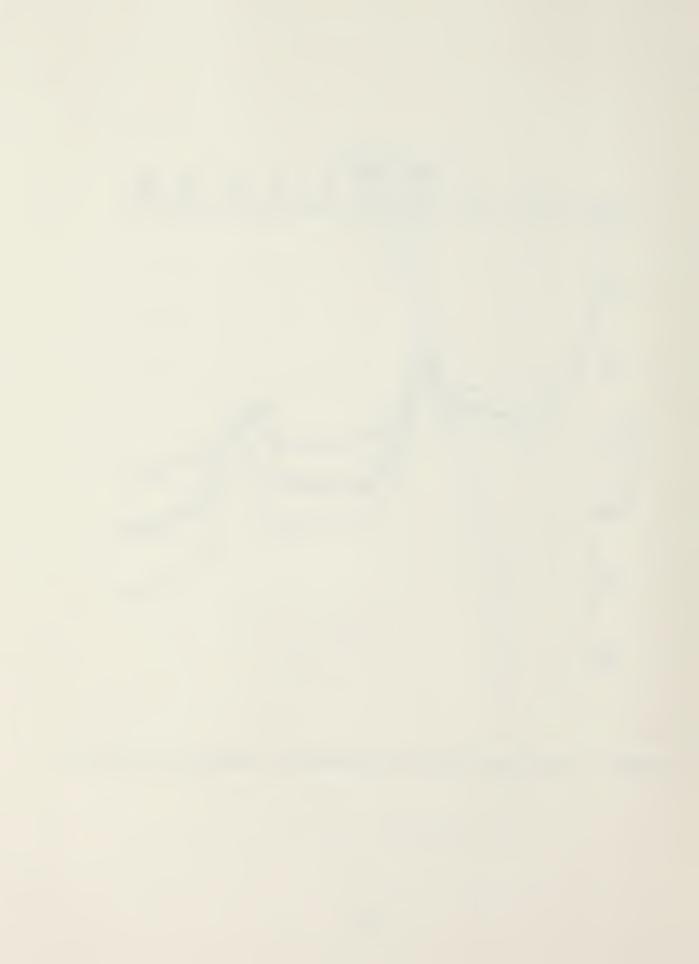


FIGURE 10: Trans. Loss Curves for Representative Profile at 6 Frequencies



and others in the Pacific during the last decade have been analyzed in light of the new theories with very interesting results. Wurtki (1975) suggested an explanation for "El Nino": strong southeast trade winds over the Eastern Pacific produce an east-west slope of sea level and an accumulation of water in the western Pacific. When the south-east trade winds relax, the accumulated water moves eastward as an equatorial internal Kelvin wave. Wyrtki found good correlation between "El Nino" years and weakening of the south-east trade winds in the previous year. As a result of the weakening of the trade winds, warm water from the west flows toward the northern coast of Peru, depressing of the thermocline. effect of the depression of the thermocline can be clearly seen by mapping the topography of an isothermal surface. The 15°C isotherm in the area off Peru lies in the thermocline and intersects the sea surface during strong upwelling in the Southern winter. Thus, the 15°C isotherm is a good indicator of the depth of the thermocline and can be used to map areas of upwelling. Based on published cruise reports, Wyrtki (1975) presented maps of the topography of the 15°C isotherm surface during several months in 1972 and showed progressive deepening of the surface as a result of the strong "El Nino" in that year.

Climatological data can be used to map topography of an isothermal surface and, thus, to determine the variability of the depth of the thermocline. Figure 11 shows the depth of the 15°C isotherm computed from the SIO for data acquired in May 1971. If sufficient data are available, a sequence of maps can be obtained to show the variation of the depth of the thermocline and of areas of upwelling.



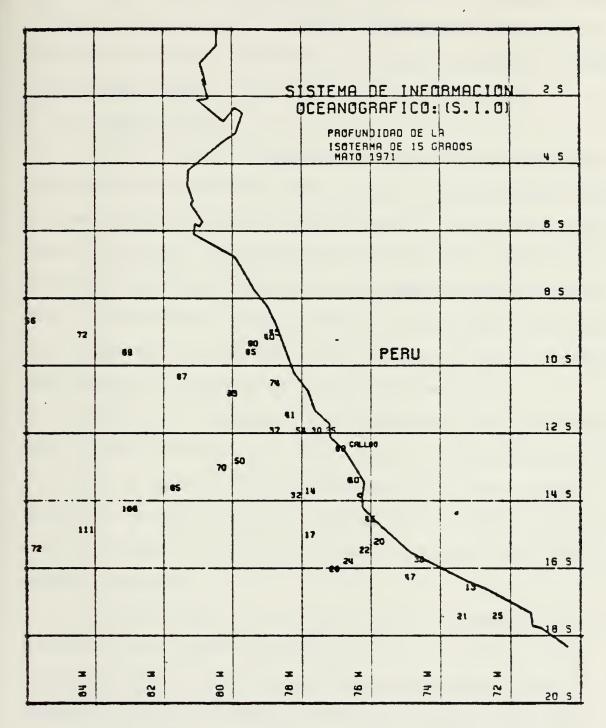
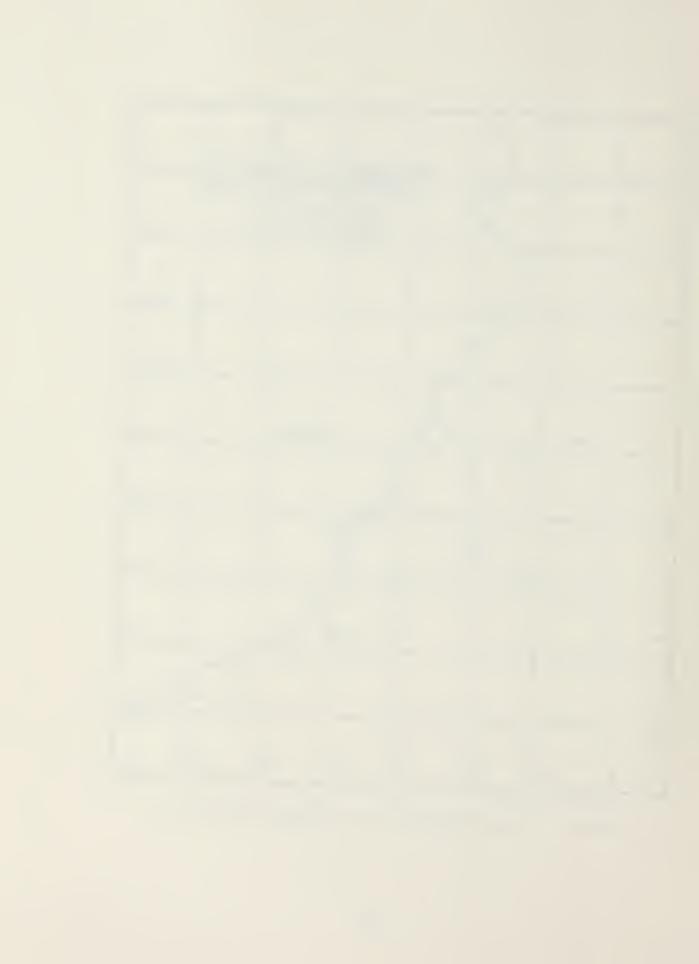


FIGURE 11: Map of Depth(m) of 15 C Isotherm for May 1971



The fluctuation of the depth of other isothermal surfaces have also been analyzed for similar studies. For example, the annual variation of the slope of the 14°C isotherm along the equator has been correlated with wind stress values to study the eastward propagation of energy in this region [Meyers, 1979].

2. Sea Level Data

Sea level data, as recorded by the DHNM at six tide gauge stations along the coast of Peru, will be part of the SIO as shown in Table 2. The recording and study of sea level and its fluctuations have been done for centuries. The ancient Greeks were the first to record the relationship between the tides and the moon's monthly passage around the earth. It was not until Newton presented his gravitational theory that this relationship was explained. Since then, many different techniques have been used for recording and predicting the sea level.

Because of its importance to navigation and its ease of measurement, sea level is now widely recorded. Historical sea level data exists for periods of decades or longer at many coastal and island locations worldwide. Sea level fluctuations have been closely studied recently, to study low frequency fluctuations resulting from various oceanic and atmospheric processes.

Along the coast of Peru, several studies have recently correlated winds and surface temperature changes with sea level changes. The results indicated the presence of low frequency perturbations traveling poleward as coastally trapped baroclinic waves (internal Kelvin waves) [Smith, 1978; Enfield and Allen, 1970]. These waves seem to play an important role in the propagation of an "El Nino".



VI. CONCLUSIONS

Large amounts of data have been acquired along the coast of Peru for many years. Some of these data have already been assembled by large oceanographic data centers like NODC, World Data Center, and Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center. However, there are still some historical data that have not been incorporated in those data banks and can be found only in the archives of the original sources.

A large proportion of the oceanographic data acquired along the Peruvian coast, particularly during the last decade, was obtained under international cooperative programs and experiments. Most of the information obtained by the international programs and by Peruvian Institutions is generally available. However, no Peruvian agency or institution was assigned the responsibility of assembling all available data acquired during those programs.

In order to improve the understanding of the effects of currents along the coast of Peru as well as the "El Nino" event, it is important to organize an oceanographic data bank in Peru. Most of the historical data required for such a bank are available from large international oceanographic data centers and from Peruvian and foreign institutions. Unfortunately, some of the latter information is not in a computer accessible form. Also, some of the data that are in computer accessible form are stored in non-standard formats, making the merging of all the available data difficult.



The Peruvian Navy, as one of the institutions that acquires oceanographic data on a continuing basis, was recently assigned the responsibility of organizing an oceanographic data bank for Peru. The first step
in the organization of the data bank was to compile, from several sources,
all the readily available historical data from the coastal waters of
Peru. The next and most important step will be the establishment of
procedures to update the data bank on a continuing basis. This will involve monitoring ocean conditions and exchanging data with other institutions. This program will have to be done in cooperation with local
institutions such as fisheries as well as regional and international
organizations under a data exchange agreement. The last step in the
organization of the data bank will fulfill its mission: the implementation of computer programs and application products to provide a variety
of data analysis services to users.



APPENDIX A

FORMAT OF HYDROCAST PROFILE

	GRUPO FECHA HORA =	
CODIGO DE LLAMADA DEL	BUQUE = 00061EX TIPO	DE DATA= 4
PCSICION: LAT =-	-18.50 LONG =-72.38	
NITUELEC - 12		

AT A	PROF.	TEMP.	SAL.	VEL.SON	OXG.
	C.0 10.00 20.00 30.00 50.00 74.00 99.00 199.00 199.00 297.00 397.00	25.01 24.77 20.02 18.20 15.68 13.36 12.95 11.85 10.77 9.62 8.14 5.77	34.93 35.00 35.00 35.09 34.87 34.87 34.87 34.87 34.87 34.69 34.60	1534.80 1534.80 1532.50 1517.50 1509.20 1503.10 1500.30 1500.10 1497.90 1495.20 1491.20 1486.60	5.40 5.00 6.00 6.20 4.50 4.70 0.70 0.30 0.30 0.60 1.00
	992.00	4.87	34.61	1486.30	1.50

FORMAT OF BT PROFILES

REPORTE NRO 6592 GRUPO FECHA HORA = 62063006
CODIGC DE LLAMADA DEL BUQUE = 14524 TIPO DE DATA= 3
PCSICION: LAT =-12.78 LONG =-77.90
NIVELES = 11
PRO. TEMP. PROF. TEMP. PROF. TEMP.

0.0 27.03 10.00 25.73 20.00 21.97 30.00 17.65 55.00 15.72 70.00 13.31 55.00 11.07 180.00 10.05 220.00 8.40 270.00 7.80 300.00 7.15



APPENDIX B

LIST OF OBSERVATIONS - YEAR 1960

*****	******	***** **********************	********** NO 1960 ******	******	*****	****
NRO	GR.FECH		LAT	LONG	Т	Н
000005556668888996666666666667777777777777777	600121222001 6001212122001 6000122122000 600012222000 600012222000 6000122222000 6000122222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 60001222222000 600012222222000 600012222222000 6000012222222000 6000012222222000 60000122222222000 6000012222222222	######################################	12832875332008720057830875332322200002755203352857 1211111111111111111111111111111111111	83383838505500873307507703582833327328788885075 87421986549986213564900122990001123345677888890111 88888888888888777777777777777777777	๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛	9912301234778956580122334401122344559011223323343





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6300	71060213	15169	-4.37	-81.40		13
6301	71060217	15169	-4.02	-81.12		17
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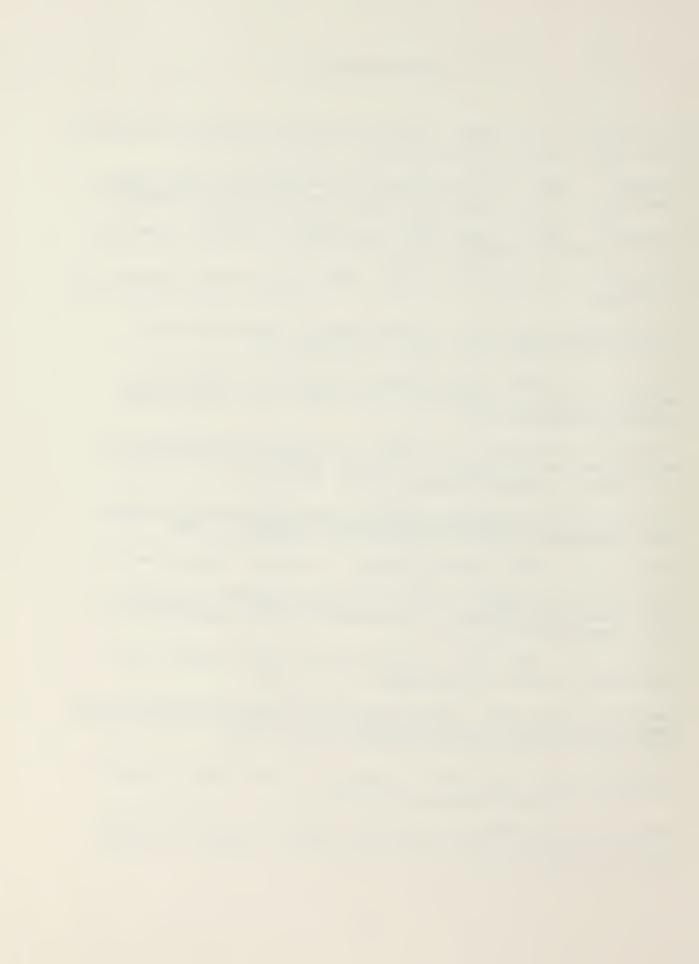


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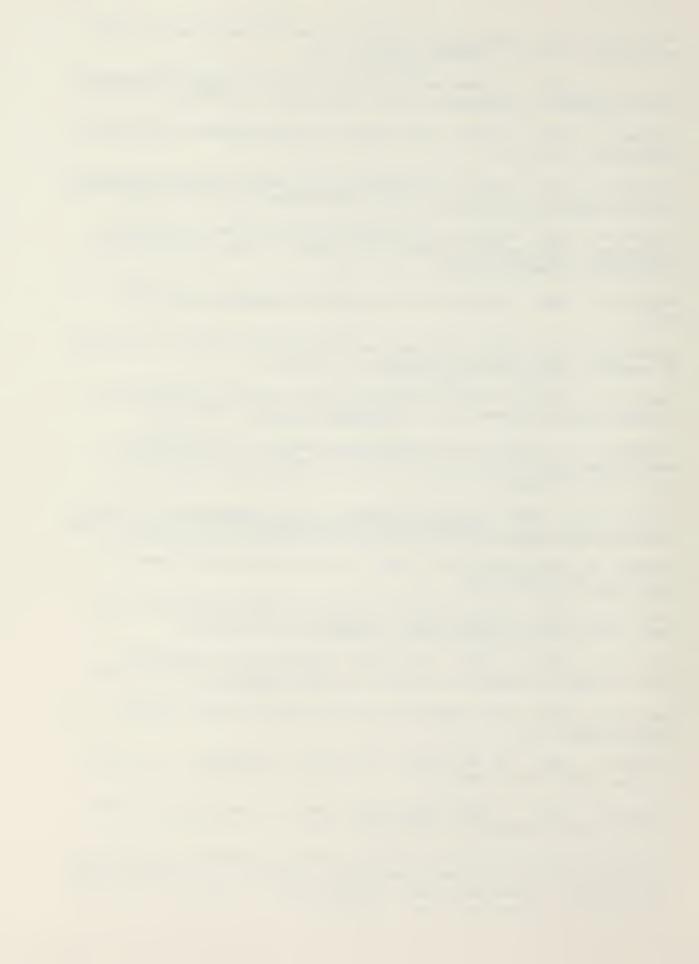


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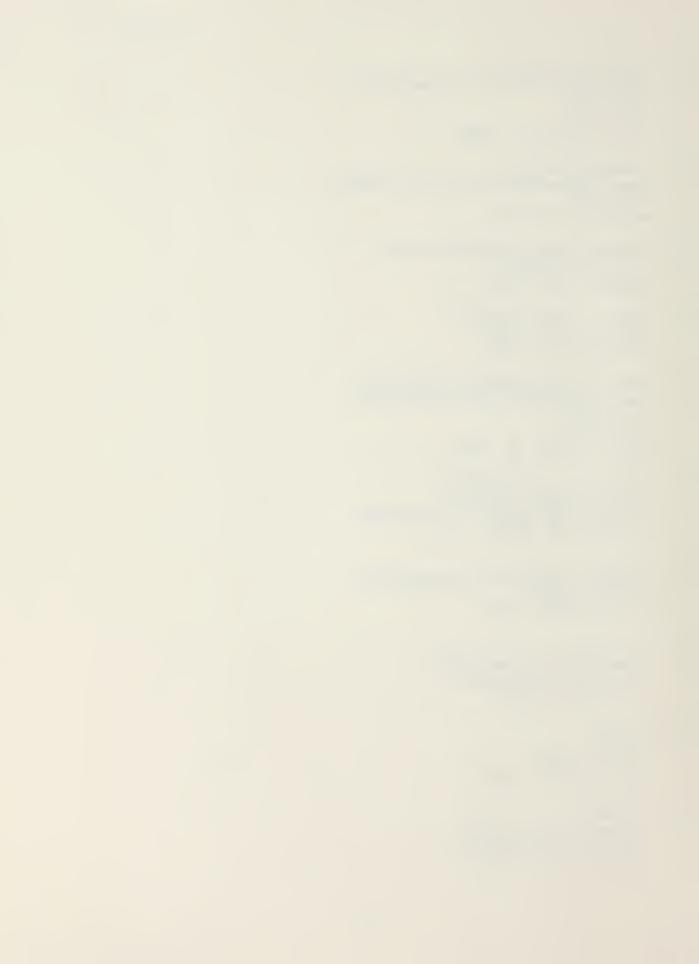


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